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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUPLE SENTENCED
FOR MANUFACTURING CREDIT CARDS**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that yesterday U.S. District Court Judge Richard D. Bennett sentenced Francis E. Fletcher, age 36, and Michele Anne Fletcher, age 31, of Glenn Dale, Maryland to 63 months in prison and 48 months in prison, respectively, followed by 5 years of supervised release in connection with their guilty pleas to three counts of bank fraud and credit card fraud. Judge Bennett also ordered the defendants to pay restitution in the amount of \$183,895.06 and forfeit their residence in Glenn Dale, two Mercedes Benz automobiles, a Lexus automobile, and a Kawasaki Ninja motorcycle.

According to an agreed statement of facts presented to the court on June 15, 2004 as part of their plea agreement, for nearly two years until their arrest in early 2003 the Fletchers used social security numbers of other persons to make counterfeit driver's licenses, substituting their own

photographs. The arrest was the result of a criminal investigation which began after the Fletchers were videotaped in a Germantown store purchasing three Audiovox DVD players using a counterfeit VISA card in April of this year. During a search conducted on April 21, 2003 at the Fletchers' residence, members of a joint task force consisting of Montgomery and Prince George's County detectives and agents from the U.S. Secret Service discovered a virtual factory for making credit cards, including over a thousand blank plastic cards, embossing machines, computer equipment and over a hundred completed counterfeit cards. Law enforcement officers seized expensive merchandise obtained through the use of counterfeit credit cards from area stores including flat screen televisions, digital cameras, computers and gift certificates in denominations of \$1,000 to \$3,000.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Donna C. Sanger and Bryan E. Foreman.